

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, Connecticut.

1. Roll Call

Council Members

Dr. Stewart Beckett III, Chairman
Mr. Whit C. Osgood, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Jill Barry
Ms. Karen Boisvert
Mr. Lawrence J. Byar
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh
Mr. William T. Finn
Mr. Thomas P. Gullotta
Mrs. Cara T. Keefe

(a) Pledge of Allegiance.

led by Chairman Beckett

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby amends the Regular Meeting agenda to add a continued public hearing on the proposed 2017-2018 General Fund-Town Operations, Debt & Transfer, Education, Capital Improvement Program, and Special Revenue Funds.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}

2. Public Comment.

No one spoke

3. Special Reports.

(a) Metropolitan District representatives to update on change in billing from quarterly to monthly.

Mr. Robert Constable, MDC Director of Finance, explained that they are changing from quarterly to monthly billing and will continue to enhance their bill paying methods. He said that they have been staggering the rollout. Chairman Beckett thanked him for coming and explaining the change.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING

7:00 P.M. FINAL BUDGET HEARING – 2017-2018 GENERAL FUND-TOWN OPERATIONS, DEBT AND TRANSFER, EDUCATION, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS *Continued*

Chairman Beckett asked if there was anything new from the state. Mr. Johnson said that there is nothing new, everything remains in a state of discussion. Chairman Beckett said that at the last meeting, they reviewed the assumptions they made as a basis for the budget proposal.

Mr. Derrick Maggonn of 125 Chimney Sweep Hill said he moved to town for the school system and while not a fan of taxes, encouraged the Council to offset education cuts with tax increases.

Ms. Cynthia Walls of 31 Checkerberry Lane said she was back speaking out against paving over wetlands for a trail for a handful of cyclists especially in light of the fiscal crisis. She said she would like to hear it is not in the budget noting that senior meals have been cut, people are out of work and there are budget freezes.

Jeannine Loughlin of 94 Eastbury Hill said that given the difficult times, they must be conservative and every agency must rein in spending. She said that they cannot be considered an age friendly town if the taxes keep going up. Hearing nothing further, Chairman Beckett closed the public hearing.

4. Old Business.

Vice Chairman Osgood confirmed with Mr. Johnson that the proposed motions include what they approved the previous week including OPEB. Mr. Cavanaugh spoke to the potential new revenue sources for \$200,000 and asked about the waste changes. Mr. Johnson explained the suggested increase of the sticker from \$25 to \$30 and potential elimination of the free thousand pounds. He continued saying that they are proposing to be more consistent. Mr. Cavanaugh asked about the other proposed permit fees. Mr. Johnson said that the Health Director can present the proposed fee structure but they learned that they were low among peers. Mr. Cavanaugh asked about the number of people that lose their permit and Mr. Johnson said it was about 250 historically. Mr. Cavanaugh asked about the CO inspection fee. Mr. Johnson said that a final inspection is required and the cost to the town is far more than the fee proposed to be collected.

Mr. Cavanaugh would like to see both the fee increases and the service cuts proposed together. Mr. Johnson said that refuse and the health department would come back for formal action. Mrs. Barry questioned what would happen if they don't approve the revenue increases and Mr. Gullotta said they'd have a shortfall unless Mr. Johnson were to realize savings elsewhere. Mr. Johnson said that it's 14-15 months before the end of the next fiscal year so things can change. Chairman Beckett said that the state did an extensive tax study and other states have lower taxes

but high usage fees and they can discuss it further, but it is a direction they may be going in. Mr. Gullotta questioned if the Board of Education had a desire to comment on OPEB but no one spoke. Chairman Beckett stated that the path was fully offset by grant funding.

(a) Action on Resolutions Adopting the 2017-2018 Operating Budget.

(1) General Fund-Appropriations and Transfers

• General Town Budget

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves an appropriation of \$39,458,462 for the 2017-2018 General Town Budget.

Amendment By: Mrs. Barry

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council amends the proposed appropriation to \$40,055,831 for the 2017-2018 General Town Budget representing the number with OPEB added back in.

Disc: Mr. Gullotta said that this is an extremely difficult budget scenario and conveyed word from the state that ECS is likely to change. He said he doesn't have a problem with the action of removing OPEB but felt the timing is very difficult. He said that giving the Board of Education \$400,000 less could be four or five teaching positions and suggested it be left in at this time. Chairman Beckett said he wouldn't support the amendment speaking to the history of the Board of Education not funding OPEB. Mr. Gullotta suggested taking it out when ECS is increased without further damaging the education budget. Mrs. Barry said it was false that the Board of Education hasn't funded OPEB. She said they funded \$400,000 last year representing 78% and \$395,000 the year before. Vice Chairman Osgood noted that their budget is zero. Mrs. Barry said to start it was zero but they ultimately funded OPEB. Mr. Byar noted this is the general budget. Mrs. Keefe expressed support noting that a 0% increase budget was necessary but OPEB they could delay given the issues in question and the impact putting Board of Education in a very precarious situation.

Result: Motion to amend fails by the following vote {3-6-0}.

For: Mrs. Barry, Mr. Gullotta and Mrs. Keefe

Against: Chairman Beckett, Vice Chairman Osgood, Ms. Boisvert, Mr. Byar, Mr. Cavanaugh and Mr. Finn

Abstain: None

Result: Original motion passes by the following vote {6-3-0}.

For: Chairman Beckett, Vice Chairman Osgood, Ms. Boisvert, Mr. Byar, Mr. Cavanaugh and Mr. Finn

Against: Mrs. Barry, Mr. Gullotta and Mrs. Keefe

Abstain: *None*

- **Education**

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves an appropriation of \$100,894,967 for the 2017-2018 Education Budget.

Amendment By: Mrs. Barry

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council amends the proposed appropriation to \$101,341,911 for the 2017-2018 Education Budget representing the number with OPEB added back in.

Disc: Mr. Gullotta said that they were unanimous in support until OPEB was removed and he was trying to allow flexibility to prevent draconian decisions. Mrs. Keefe expressed support confirming with Mrs. Barry that this still represents a 0% increase. Mrs. Barry questioned the protocol about making policy regarding how OPEB contributions are handled. She continued saying that they should discuss policy rather than haphazard implementation without all involved. She said that while she might agree at some point, this is not the best time. Chairman Beckett said that they had a discussion three years ago and OPEB was zeroed out. He expressed frustration about passing the liability off to future generations. Mr. Gullotta reiterated his concern over the timing urging the other members to do it when state funds are restored and not tonight when it would badly hurt education. Mr. Cavanaugh said it wasn't haphazard and that it had been analyzed by the Board of Finance and Town Council. He said the Superintendent stated it was a bad year to be doing OPEB which is code that they weren't going to fund it. He added that he didn't believe anything out of Hartford but would deal with reality when it happened. He would not support the amendment. Vice Chairman Osgood said that the state is in the bad situation because of not funding their liabilities and he wouldn't support the amendment. Mr. Gullotta noted that they did not include in the budget the portion of the teacher pensions of \$5M and felt another \$400,000 was reasonable while they await more information from the state. Mrs. Barry said that two years the Board of Education made 78% OPEB contribution and felt a decision was being made without full understanding.

Result: Motion to amend fails by the following vote {3-6-0}.

For: Mrs. Barry, Mr. Gullotta and Mrs. Keefe

Against: Chairman Beckett, Vice Chairman Osgood, Ms. Boisvert, Mr. Byar, Mr. Cavanaugh and Mr. Finn

Abstain: *None*

Result: Original motion passes by the following vote {6-3-0}.

For: Chairman Beckett, Vice Chairman Osgood, Ms. Boisvert, Mr. Byar, Mr. Cavanaugh and Mr. Finn

Against: Mrs. Barry, Mr. Gullotta and Mrs. Keefe

Abstain: *None*

- **Debt and Transfer**

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves an appropriation of \$14,707,804 for the 2017-2018 Debt and Transfer Budget.

Result: Motion passes by the following vote {7-2-0}.

For: Chairman Beckett, Vice Chairman Osgood, Ms. Boisvert, Mr. Byar, Mr. Cavanaugh, Mr. Finn and Mr. Gullotta

Against: Mrs. Barry and Mrs. Keefe

Abstain: *None*

(2) General Fund-Revenues and Transfers

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves 2017-2018 General Fund Revenues and Transfers in the amount of \$155,061,233.

Amendment By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves 2017-2018 General Fund Revenues and Transfers in the amount of \$155,261,233 to include the \$200,000 additional revenues.

Result: Motion to amend passes by the following vote {7-2-0}.

For: Chairman Beckett, Vice Chairman Osgood, Ms. Boisvert, Mr. Byar, Mr. Cavanaugh. Mr. Finn and Mr. Gullotta

Against: Mrs. Barry and Mrs. Keefe

Abstain: *None*

Result: Amended motion passes by the following vote {7-2-0}.

For: Chairman Beckett, Vice Chairman Osgood, Ms. Boisvert, Mr. Byar, Mr. Cavanaugh. Mr. Finn and Mr. Gullotta

Against: Mrs. Barry and Mrs. Keefe

Abstain: *None*

(3) Capital Improvement Program

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Glastonbury Town Council approves the 2017-2018 Capital Improvement Program in the amount of \$11,366,388. Funding to be provided as follows:

Town Aid Grants	\$460,888
Capital Reserve Fund	\$9,560,000
Sewer Sinking Fund	\$1,345,500

Disc: Mr. Gullotta said that there a lot of good projects but not all are necessary and therefore, he wouldn't support the motion.

Result: Motion passes by the following vote {6-3-0}.

For: Chairman Beckett, Vice Chairman Osgood, Ms. Boisvert, Mr. Byar, Mr. Cavanaugh and Mr. Finn

Against: Mrs. Barry, Mr. Gullotta and Mrs. Keefe

Abstain: *None*

(4) Special Revenue Funds

- **Sewer Operating Fund**
- **Recreation Activities Fund**
- **Police Private Duty**
- **Riverfront Park Fund**

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council approves 2017-2018 Special Revenue Fund Appropriations and Transfers and Special Revenue Fund Revenues and Transfers budgets as follows:

• <i>SEWER OPERATING FUND</i>	\$3,019,265
• <i>RECREATION ACTIVITIES FUND</i>	\$1,503,316
• <i>POLICE PRIVATE DUTY</i>	\$495,000
• <i>RIVERFRONT PARK FUND</i>	\$256,939

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

5. New Business. *None*

6. Consent Calendar. *None*

7. Town Manager's Report.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his report to the Council dated March 24, 2017, noting that the roundabout construction will be starting soon and a community meeting was planned for April 21, 2017. He said that Rotary donated a mobile trailer for "Hidden in Plain Sight" in the fight against substance abuse. He noted the success of summer registration and a deal with LL Bean to bring water recreation programs to the Boat House. Mr. Byar thanked Rotary for the donation and asked Mr. Johnson if he had spoken to the Y about a partnership regarding pool facilities. Mr. Johnson said that they had spoken a couple years before but he could renew discussions. Mrs. Barry praised Parks and Recreation for their programs and successful summer sign-up launch. Mrs. Keefe congratulated Mrs. Barry for being recognized as an outstanding volunteer in the school system. Mr. Cavanaugh asked if there would be any conflict with the LL Bean programs and use of the

boathouse but Mr. Johnson did not think so. Mr. Cavanaugh asked him to ride by a property in town regarding potential sign violations.

Ms. Boisvert asked about the Cider Mill RFP. Mr. Johnson said that they offered the property for farming but only got one respondent. Vice Chairman Osgood noted that it was Chairman Beckett but emphasized that the process was no different and it had been leased by the Chairman previously. He asked if everyone was okay no scheduling for formal action. Mr. Byar didn't feel a formal vote was necessary and said while there may be a perceived conflict but it was an open request for proposals and only drew one respondent. Mrs. Keefe asked if there would be another shredding event given the popularity and Mr. Johnson said he'd look into it. Mr. Gullotta asked if the 15 year term was typical for the farm lease. Mr. Johnson said that they have 5, 10 and up noting some crops require multiple ears to make it worthwhile. He added that it is a series of one year leases which could be terminated by the town at any time. Mr. Gullotta said he had no objections and wished him good luck.

8. Committee Reports.

(a) Chairman's Report.

Chairman Beckett said that CRCOG is discussing German Manufacturing. Vice Chairman Osgood said that the MDC is going to monthly billing as conveyed earlier in the meeting.

9. Communications.

(a) Letter from CT Siting Council regarding modifications to existing telecommunication facility at 577 Bell Street.

10. Minutes

(a) Minutes of March 8, 2017 Special Meeting.

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the minutes as submitted for the special meeting held March 8, 2017.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {8-0-1}

For: Chairman Beckett, Vice Chairman Osgood, Mrs. Barry, Ms. Boisvert, Mr. Byar, Mr. Cavanaugh, Mr. Finn and Mr. Gullotta

Against: None

Abstain: Mrs. Keefe {excused}

11. Appointments and Resignations.

None

12. Executive Session.

(a) Potential property acquisition.

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enters executive session for the purposes of discussing a potential property acquisition at 8:08pm.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

Present for the executive session was Richard J. Johnson, Town Manager, Dr. Stewart "Chip" Beckett III, Chairman, Mr. Whit C. Osgood, Vice Chairman, Mrs. Jill Barry, Ms. Karen Boisvert, Mr. Lawrence J. Byar, Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh, Mr. William T. Finn, Mr. Thomas P. Gullotta and Mrs. Cara T. Keefe.

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby exits executive session at 8:15pm.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

13. Adjournment

Motion By: Mr. Cavanaugh

Seconded By: Mr. Gullotta

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their regular meeting of March 28, 2017, at 8:16 pm.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Meanix Miller

Kimberly Meanix Miller
Recording Clerk

Stewart Beckett, III
Chairman